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**Letter dated 4 February 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement on Côte d'Ivoire issued by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States at their 26th Ordinary Summit, held in Dakar, Senegal, on 31 January 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Nana **Effah-Apenteng**
Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations

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## Annex to the letter dated 4 February 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Statement by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States on Côte d'Ivoire

1. The ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, meeting at their 26th Ordinary Summit in Dakar, Senegal, on 31 January 2003, received the report on the work of the high-level Contact Group of Heads of State and Government from His Excellency President Gnassingbe Eyadema, coordinator of the Contact Group. He briefed his colleagues about the mediation of the Contact Group, which led to the signing of ceasefire agreements with the three Ivorian armed movements.

2. The ECOWAS Heads of State and Government expressed gratitude to President Eyadema for the efforts deployed by him in the search for peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

3. The Heads of State and Government listened to the accounts of the evolution of the Ivorian situation from Mr. Seydou Diarra, Prime Minister-designate under the Marcoussis Accord, Mr. Pascal Affi Nguessan, Prime Minister and also Mr. Guillaume Soro, Secretary-General of the Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire, who spoke on behalf of the Mouvement patriotique de la Côte d'Ivoire, the Mouvement populaire ivoirien du Grand Ouest and the Mouvement pour la justice et la paix.

4. The Heads of State and Government expressed their deep concern over the persistence of the Ivorian Crisis. They reaffirmed their decision taken on 29 September 2002 at Accra, concerning their preference for a peaceful settlement of the crisis. They therefore resolved to give every support to the outcome of the round table on Côte d'Ivoire, which was held at Linas Marcoussis from 15 to 24 January 2003. They invited all the parties concerned to work together to ensure the scrupulous application of the Marcoussis Accord.

5. The Heads of State and Government decided that ECOWAS would play the role that it was assigned within the framework of the Marcoussis Accord. The Heads of State and Government made a strong appeal to His Excellency President Laurent Gbagbo to be fully involved, to bring the peace process to a satisfactory end.

6. They expressed their preparedness to continue to offer their good offices to facilitate the early return of peace to Côte d'Ivoire.

7. The Heads of State and Government affirmed their support for the legitimate President of Côte d'Ivoire, His Excellency Laurent Gbagbo. It was decided that the ECOWAS Contact Group, which is made up of Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Togo, would continue to monitor and facilitate the application of the Marcoussis Accord. It was decided to enlarge the Contact Group to include Senegal.

8. The members of the Contact Group are to proceed to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on Saturday, 1 February 2003, to meet with President Gbagbo to discuss the current situation in the country.

9. The Heads of State and Government invite all Ivorians to embark on a true national reconciliation so as to keep their country united, strong and prosperous.

They are requested, in this regard, to show a spirit of forgiveness, tolerance and solidarity.

10. The Heads of State and Government expressed profound gratitude to the President of the French Republic, His Excellency Jacques Chirac and his Government for the assistance extended to the region within the context of the resolution of the Ivorian crisis.

11. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the assistance of the international community.

12. They paid glowing homage to His Excellency Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, His Excellency Gnassingbe Eyadema, coordinator of the ECOWAS Contact Group and His Excellency President Amadou Toumani Toure for all the contributions they have made and continue to make with dedication and competence to ensure the return of peace to Côte d'Ivoire.